Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% BAG CONTENT

October 1987

see calendar of meetings on page four

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Fall Fair Kicks Off Harvest Season

The October third Fall Fair at the Ypsilanti Farmer's Market hails the beginning of Michigan's exciting harvest of produce. Special events for the day include

— free cider from Karpo's best squeezers at The Great Cider Barrel,
— the annual Apple Strudel demonstration by Alex and Maribel Suczek of the Follet House Associates,
— Sam Breck's slide show about Old Railroad Depots,
— a new exhibition of Steam and Gas Engines by the Depot Town Antique Engine Club,
— a Flour Mill Tour through slides by the Ypsi Food Co-op,
— a Kids' train on the dock,
— and a salute to the Michigan Apple rated "outstanding" in variety and taste for this spectacular harvest season.

The event will start on October third and last as long as the weather conditions and climate of Michigan continue to create such a bountiful product. You find this tradition carried out every Wednesday and Saturday in Depot Town -- at the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market in the Old Freight House next to the railroad tracks.

Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market in historic Depot Town

Other October events at the Market include:

Exhibit: Trash N' Treasures from the Railroad

10/10 - Winter squash, pumpkin delights, food demonstration 9-12

10/17 - Pumpkin Carving for Kids, 9-2

10/24 - International Crafts Day! Art and Crafts from around the world.

Kids' Hallowe'en Party an Old Fashioned Seasonal Highlight

Saturday, October 31st, will see all the neighborhood kids return to beg up and down the sidewalks of Depot Town and then repair to the rustic confines of the old Freight House by the railroad tracks. Tradition has it that costumed kids can find games, dances, treats and other entertainments in that venerable location on that very special night of the fall season.

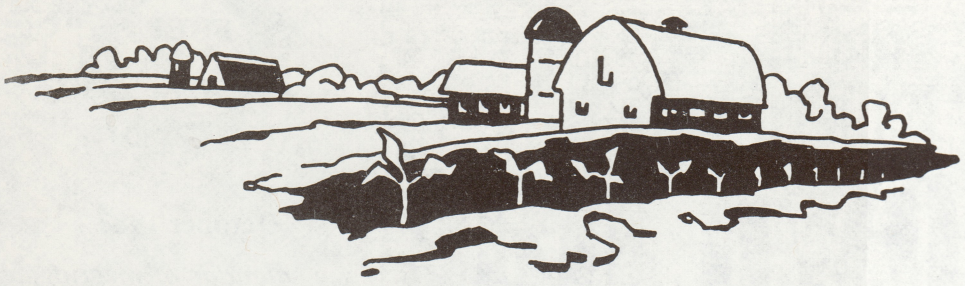
Prizes for originality in costumes highlight the evening, along with fortune-telling, story telling and other ancient rituals for the season. Wise Depot Town kids are already putting together their costumes -- and many of the mommies and daddies dress up, too!

Late Bulletin:

Work began this month on the MCRR Depot at Ypsilanti. Barricades are up and brick repair has begun.

(Understatement of the year) —

Watch this space!



B & D Retail
Plumbing & Heating
310 North River 487-1510

Old Town Restaurant
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
38 East Cross

Paponetti's Pasta
Homemade Italian Food
and Pastries
17 East Cross 483-3574

Aubree's Saloon
& Second Floor
39 East Cross

Pronto Pizza
Pizza & Subs
37 East Cross • 483-4555

Sidetrack
Good Food, Good Drinks,
Good Times
56 East Cross 483-1053

The Vitamin Shoppe
Vitamins, Herbs,
Nutritional Suppliments
9 East Cross • 485-2711

Cross Street Antiques
33 East Cross

Vintage Passion
Unusual & Different
Costume Jewelry
32 East Cross

Thompson Building Mall
Over 4000 square feet of dealers
412 North River • 484-4288

Depot Exchange Antiques
Professional Furniture Stripping
54 East Cross

Jim MacDonald's Antiques
Apple Annie's
Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555

The Grand Trunk, Ltd.
Cards & Gifts
15 East Cross 485-4994

Big Bob's Magazines
Magazines, Comics, Posters
50 East Cross 485-4930

Cross Street Mishap Leaves Four Near Death

Those four maple trees in the planters on the north side of the street aren't doing too well, and no wonder. The only water coming into those raised concrete bumper-bunkers is that little bit which is transported by hose or pail. Such a small amount stays from the occasional rain that only the weeds at the top are kept alive. Little, if any, water reaches the roots which are at and below the level of pavement just a few feet away.

Just look at these four sad specimens and then compare them to their brothers and sisters in front of Miller Motors. Apparently, Jack's daily hosings have made the difference, but how can the four on the north side of Cross be expected to thrive? Even the sad relative on the south side (between the Old Town Restaraunt and Vintage Passion)—looks like it's ready for the critical list. Tree fans who probably know better say it's only a matter of time before this one joins its neighbors across the street and it's south-side-always-in-the-shade location have delayed its demise.

Depot Town activists see only two choices before them: 1) tear down the concrete so the run-off water will return to the ground or 2) keep garden hoses on the sidewalks all summer long.

(You can never find a City Planner when you need one!)

Ike's Depot
Town Barbershop
40 East Cross • 483-6300

Ted's Auto Electric
307 North River • 483-1238

City Radiator
110 North River 483-2248

PEDDLER'S PATH
44 East Cross

Rag Editor:

Serenity House of Ypsilanti would like to express our apologies for the behavior of several children and teenagers that caused a general disturbance the night of Sept. 12. Several complaints were received after the dance indicating that these children had been noisy and rambunctious. The dance was a fund raiser for Share House, an Ypsilanti treatment facility and detox center for Alcoholics, and we failed to properly coordinate with Share House volunteers that ran the dance to insure that the children would be properly supervised. It was our first dance and a learning experience for us. We will take every measure in the future to insure that this type of thing does not occur again. Our next dance is Sept. 26 and would greatly appreciate any comments or complaints be directed to us. Our phone number at Serenity House is 481-1370 and a manager is on duty from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. daily.

We at Serenity House desire to be good neighbors and a part of the Depot community. A main purpose is to serve the recorvering community of Ypsilanti by providing them a place to socialize in a clean and sober environment. We provide a 2500 square foot meeting area that now houses 15 meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Over 400 people per week attend these meetings and we expect that number to double or triple in the near future. We hope that our neighbors are not too anxious about the kind of people that attend these meetings and use our facility. Who are these recovering alcoholics and other chemically dependent people? They are your neighbors, friends, employers, employees, lovers, and family members. Many people that attend our meetings walk in from the local neighborhood. They are not "bad people" they are simply people with a problem trying to get better and stay healthy by living alcohol and chemical free lives.

Almost everyone knows someone who drinks too much or drugs too much. Almost every family today is either affected by alcoholism or other forms of substance abuse. There are many young people who have never known any other kind of life other than one involving some form of substance abuse. They have never had a chance to develop the values necessary to live normal lives or to be good citizens in our community. We at Serenity House are dedicated to reaching out to these young people to educate them and warn them of the dangers of substance abuse. The meetings of AA and NA have "open speaker" meetings

Continued on back page

Annie Awards October 22nd

The Washtenaw Council for the Arts invites nominations for the 1987 Annie Awards for outstanding achievements and contributions in Washtenaw County by individual artists, art organizations, patrons of the arts and businesses supporting the arts.

The categories are:

I For excellence in an artistic discipline: an individual or group demonstrating a sustained history of extraordinary excellence in an artistic discipline.

II For outstanding emerging artist or arts organization: a promising new artist or organization demonstrating excellence and achieving distrinctinon in an artistic discipline.

III For excellence in Service to the arts: a private, public, or governmental institution or an individual providing exemplary leadership, financial support and/or other service to the development of the arts in Washtenaw County.

IV For outstanding business support of the arts: a business which has a record of sustained, substantial support of the arts.

Awards evening: Thursday, October 22, 1987, at the Michigan Theatre, at 8:00 p.m.

Send your nominations to WCA, PO Box 8154, Ann Arbor, MI 48107

National Arts Week '87

Participate in "the Nation's Largest Arts Festival" -- National Arts Week '87, November 15-21, 1987 by linking all art which takes place during those dates to the national picture. Possibilities include dedicating a pre-scheduled event, creating an activity, sharing information with local groups, business and government. If interested, call the Washtenaw Council for the Arts, 996-2777.

Depot Doo
Fine Design in Hair Style
25 East Cross • 484-3045

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 East Cross 482-2124

River Street Rehab Reiterated

A September meeting with City Hall's Sue Dickinson showed interested Depot Towners that the neighborhood isn't completely rehabbed, yet. Next spring's building season will see the re-paving of River Street, a boulevard which has seen rapid deterioration due to overloading and under-enforcement as it has been so often used as a detour to the main trunklines of Michigan and Cross. Ten residents, property owners and business managers attended the meeting.

The major inconvenience to be experienced in Depot Town next summer is expected to be around the curb design changes at our main intersection of River/Cross/Railroad tracks:

- new entry to center of Sidetrack's lot (the old coal yard)
- new, smaller pedestrian island at RR crossing
- wider-angled curbs leading to north, south and east
- "walk," don't walk" electrically operated signals on each crossing (Except the Miller Motors-to-Sidetrack crossing, Engineering firm McDonnel, Proudfoot's spokesperson, Tom Yurista, says it's too complex a crossing to pace the walk signal to the streets and the railroad.)
- many minor modifications.

Many of the recommended changes stem from a traffic study of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic on a typical day and suggest new patterns in turn lanes and through lanes. The study also reflected heavy truck usage of the intersection.

In the last decade we've seen long-term street closing for street and sidewalk paving, bridge building, railroad crossing re-building, parking lot construction and pedestrian bridge building. And now it'll be for the intersection of the main cross streets. By the time that's done, we may have to start the whole process over again.

Patronize The Merchants That Bring You The

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Depot Town Rag

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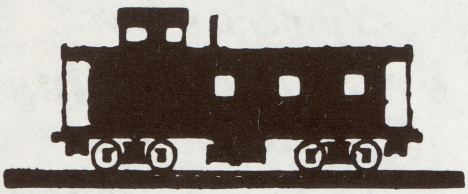
Our Little Secret
Resale Clothing & Other Niceties
23 East Cross



D.T.A. 17 September 1987

Thanks and best wishes from out-going president, Gary McKeever.

Minutes from July meeting were approved. There was no meeting in August, due to conflicts with Heritage Festival preparations.

Treasurer's report: $6942.12 in General fund. A more up-to-date report will follow.

Jazz tent placement was discussed for next Heritage Festival. Market manager, Gary Urich, suggests D.T.A. "consider the Freight House as a Depot Town facility and not inhibit its function." President McKeever pointed out the "Late finishing of the new parking lot had a lot to do with last minute decisions," in placing events around the Market Plaza this year.

Fall Fair is October 3rd at the Farmer's Market. (see article) Community High students will assist with photographing the kids train on the dock.

Rag Report: Fall harvest and the Festival of Lights will be the main focus of the October issue.

Caboose Repair: John Waite was thanked for the new window sills and frames. Depot Town Engineering Society (neighborhood kids) thanked for the exterior paint job. Two other groups have volunteered to paint the interior. $156.12 transferred to the Caboose account to pay for supplies used thus far.

Engineering Society: Neighborhood kids are eager to help with projects for the good of the block. 'Conductors' are needed to provide jobs and motivation. Meadows has a ballroom clean-up job for them. Caboose interior needs painting (Dodd). Planters need work (C. McKeever). Thanks to all who provided jobs in August and early September. Engineers sailed to Boblo as a partial pay-off. Others received direct pay from private citizens.

Festival of Lights: Carolyn McKeever is general chair of this year's event in Riverside Park. (see related article). Depot Town coordination and cooperation is anticipated. Tree and display sponsors are sought. Depot Towners will soon be able to schedule when they wish to volunteer for hosting and entry and exit gates.

Heritage Festival: This afternoon's wrap-up session pointed out several problems with Depot Town businesses hosting events and activities which were not part of the total Festival plan. Information booths did not have facts to help people find the activities. Some were appropriate, but others were in violation of City ordinance. We need better coordination of activities for next year.

Artists & Artisans: Martha Kemnitz, also from the City Planning Commission, spoke of rezoning problems which stem from original railroad and stock yards to a current mix of residential, commercial and industrial use. DTA will support her efforts toward a Master Plan for Ypsilanti and will support the public hearing process toward that end. Financial help was also pledged but not specified. DTA will inform the City Manager of its intent after October 15th.

Corktown Fest: Neighborhood organizers from Tiger Stadium-Detroit River area have worked with DTA officials in helping plan their first Heritage Fest-type event on September 19-20. Depot Towners are invited to show up in Victorian finery.

NIFTY (New Initiative For Tourism in Ypsilanti): A "Trading Post" will soon open in 21 East Cross, with Professor Malarky's junk in the back. Weekend shows and exhibitions will appear behind the Follet House next spring.

Noisy neighbors: A September 12th party in the block turned out to be not very 'serene' and many neighbors talked with participants, tenants and owners of the property to guartantee it will not be repeated. The event was described as, "sober people running amuk."

Great Train Race lost money at this year's Heritage Festival, due to the loss of its sponsor. A new sponsor is imminent and the Budweiser Clydsdales are getting closer to the Heritage Parade every year.

Election of officers: A unanimous ballot was cast for the following:
President: Tom Dodd
Vice President: Gary McKeever
Secretary: Mary Doll
Treasurer: Judith Monaghan
(See related article)

Standing Committees: President-elect Dodd announced the following standing committees in need of dedicated volunteers at the October meeting:

— **Caboose** maintenance, rental and promotion

— **Promotions,** NIFTY, incubator projects and new ideas

— **Events,** Winter jazz series, Heritage jazz competition, Frog Island Fest, Heritage Fest coordination, Boomer Days, Victorian Holiday, etc.

— **Membership** and volunteer coordination

Best Yet Award to the Depot Town Engineering Society for their help in rehabilitating the Old Caboose: Shena Thomas, Carlos Thomas, Shawn Bach and Tommy Grubb.

The Golden Goose: to last Saturday's rude revelers.

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Officers Elected by Depot Town Association

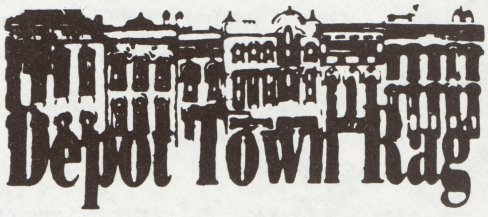
On Thursday, September 17, 1987 the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit and tax-exempt incorporation of the State of Michigan, held its annual election meeting in the Old Caboose.

Elected **president** was Tom Dodd, 46 East Cross, who also served as DTA president ten years ago, from 1977 to 1980. Dodd is an art and English teacher at Ann Arbor's Community High School and serves as editor for the Depot Town Rag.

Vice President is Gary McKeever, 23½ East Cross, stepping down from the position of president which he has held since 1984. McKeever is the senior computer console operator for Ford Motor's Saline Plastics Product Division. The Vice president will coordinate the several subdivisions of the Association which hold the seats of Second Vice Presidents: Merchants, Artists & Artisans, Antique Engine Club, Antique Dealers Association, and the Engineering Society.

Secretary, Mary Doll, 29 East Cross, is an architect with Lee Mamola and Associates of Novi.

Treasurer is Judith Monaghan, 811 Lowell, technical support coordinator for the CPHA (Commission on Professional and Hospital Activities in Ann Arbor.)



THE DEPOT TOWN RAG:
A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

The Depot Town Association, Inc.,
Tom Dodd, President
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Ypsilanti's 1987
Festival of Lights
in Riverside Park

Sunday, November 22, 1987 to Sunday, January 3, 1988.

(Your editor complains every year, when Christmas holdiay decor starts to appear somewhere between Labor Day and Hallowe'en, but this item is included so local sponsors will be able to plan toward even more lighted trees and displays in Ypsilanti's new tradition. Sorry, if it looks like we're rushing the season, but we've got to take care of buisness here. -ed)

Other events which will accompany this year's display in Riverside Park:

- Central Business District's tree decorating contest
- Tree lighting ceremonies at Town Centre Place
- Depot Town's Victorian Holiday
- Flower bed tree displays
- Gingerbread House Contest
- Holiday house decoration contest

and we look forward to publicizing even more of these events in the November and December issues.

First year records:

Last year's initial concept for lighting Riverside Park began with a meeting of interested parties on October 9th -- and the first Festival of Lights held its Grand Opening lighting ceremony on November 23! Over 203,000 people visited the first lighting extravaganza.

The first year's display included sixteen displays and forty-one decorated trees. 1000 feet of wire was strung from electrical sources which have since been enlarged and installed underground.

A contest was held to guess the number of lights. Marcia DeWolf guessed 24,140, and was only two off from the actual number 24,142. DeWolf is a 1985 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Computer Science. She won a 19-inch color television and $100.00

The first year's coupon was included in the back of the free coloring booklet handed out at the Park's entrance and enjoyed and unprecedented 25% return. Such returns are valuable to the Ypsilanti Visitors and Convention bureau for measuring the effect of such a promotion. This return found 13% of the 203,000 were from Detroit, 37% from other cities in the region, 48% were from Washtenaw County. The farthest away visitor was from New Zealand and 34 of 49 states were represented - even Alaska!

New Additions & Policies

Still more underground wiring has been installed in Riverside Park over the summer and at least twenty more trees can be lighted this year. More than $11,000 has been invested in the installation since last season.

There is now space and wiring for nine more displays. Sponsors for additional trees are being sought at $300 each and display costs range from $600 to $1200. A design book of new display designs is at the VCB office in the Chamber of Commerce headquarters. New designs may be reserved beginning September 12.

The Festival Committee and the VCB have also created a policy which provides for only non-commercial and non-denominational designs in the displays. Only displays arranged through the VCB will be on view in the Park and solicitations and advertising during the Festival are prohibited. The 'free admission' policy continues.

Some Highlights from the 1986 Festival of Lights

*One starry-eyed couple walked into Riverside Park on Christmas Eve and didn't return for several hours. As they exited, they seemed more starry-eyed than before, showing a new engagement ring to the greeters at the gate.

*Although not a scheduled event on the the planning committee's calendar, Santa Claus was often seen along the tree-lined paths among the lighting displays.

*Eastern Michigan University's Pan-Hellenic Society provided the largest and most continuous group of volunteers to greet visitors at the entrance and exit to the display.

*Area restaurants reported record crowds, all attributable to the attraction in the Park.

*One of the most difficult things for many greeter/volunteers was to explain to out-of-towners that there was no charge for the Festival. Many wanted to make contributions to the effort.

Committees for this year's Festival of Lights include

General Chair -
Carolyn McKeever
Sales Coordination -
Valerie Franklin, director, Visitors & Convention Bureau
Community Contacts -
Mike Kabat, Sioux Shelton
Promotion & information -
Tom Dodd, Debra Jean Smith, Bill & Sandee French
Booklet -
Debra Jean Smith, Carolyn McKeever
Operations & Maintenance -
Bob Woodside, Chuck Soule, Bill Zolkowski, Steve Shelton
Host/Gatekeeping -
Polly Miller, Karen Doyle
Distribution -
Billy Zolkowski
Detroit Edison liason -
Bill Dixon

Continued from page 3

where people discuss the impact of alcohol and drugs on their lives and how they recovered thru the fellowship of AA and NA. We would like to welcome anyone to attend these open meetings and our social functions. The "closed meetings" of AA and NA are for those who "have a desire to stop drinking or using drugs", which is the only requirement for membership. If you think you or someone that you care about has a problem with alcohol or drugs and wants to do something about it please urge them to come to Serenity House.

We are very happy to be a new part of the Depot Town community. Our members are new customers for your businesses. They eat in the restaurants, buy ice cream, antiques, haircuts and all manner of goods available here. We hope to help Depot Town grow and prosper and be the "best neighbors" that we can be.

Serenity House Board of Trustees
Executive Board Member
Kelly P. Davis

October 1987
for the good of the block:

Foundation
8 p.m. Thursday 10/1
Caboose

Fall Fair
All day Saturday 10/3
Freight House

Association
Annual Goal Setting
7:30 p.m. Thursday 10/15
Caboose

Artists & Artisans
Wednesdays as announced
Caboose

Antique Engine Club
7:30 Thursday 10/22
Caboose

Depot Town Antique Dealers
6:04 p.m. every Tuesday
Old Town Restaurant

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